ARCHON studio

Illinois School of Architecture Graduate DESIGN Studio

Arch 571/S2021 Professor Chasco, FAIA

"All of my life I have dreamed of the essence of dwelling not just for oneself, but for all humanity-to dwell in a garden, or in a grove, or on a hill, water's edge, or in an open space, all with a view, near or far, simply, humbly, poetically like Thoreau or Walden Pond, joining as well in the joy, pride and wellbeing of community life." A. Richard Williams, FAIA, Professor Emeritus

The ARCHON studio is a graduate studio awarding the Archon Prize for a 1000 sq. ft. "Essential House." Students will select SITE 1 or SITE 2.

STUDENTS WILL HAVE THE OPTION OF CHOOSING A SITE IN ANTRIM DELLS AREA OF NORTHERN MICHIGAN OR IN VOLTERRA, ITALY IN THE TUSCANY VALLEY

SITE 1 is within 37 acres of northern Michigan terrain of Antrim Dells, consisting of rolling and open glacial terrain, deep hardwood forests, wetlands, water and country views, and artesian wells and stream. Each student will design one "Essential House" on a site feature of their choice and fully describe the house with appropriate exterior, interior design and detail drawings. Each student will create two permutations of the house.

SITE 2 is located in Volterra, Italy. Volterra started as the Etruscan seat of a 3000 year old culture. Volterra then became a Roman City and then a walled Medieval City atop a high plateau, 1500 ft above the Tuscany valley. The Roman Theatre and Baths are the only visible signs of the old Roman City. The completely walled city is served by four primary gate (Porta's) entry. The Porta All' Arco is the only original Etruscan gate into the city left.





The Archon Prize Studio will be judged by an invited national jury at the end of the semester and offer substantial monetary awards associated with the Archon Prize Endowment.

Site 1: Antrim Dells





Site 2: Volterra, Italy